Docket No. RSW9-2000-0065-US1

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR MODIFYING MAIL RULES

A method in a data processing system for modifying rules to process electronic messages. User input is detected moving an electronic message into a folder, wherein a rule is associated with the folder, or performing a specific action on a electronic message such as forwarding it. In response, determining whether the electronic message matches the rule associated with the folder or action. Characteristics of the electronic message are identified if a match between the rule and the electronic message is absent. The rule for the folder or action is modified using the characteristics to form a modified rule.